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SEP 20 1950

MEMORANDUM FOR: THE COMMISSIONER
IMMIGRATION AND NATURALIZATION SERVICE

SUBJECT: (Dr.) Ferdinand DURCANSKY

1. Reference is made to a telephone query made by Mr. Pelosi on 15 August 1950 with regard to Dr. Ferdinand DURCANSKY, former Slovak Foreign Minister and now leader of the Slovak Liberation Committee, rival Slovak separatist organization to Karel SIDOR's Slovak National Council who is at present reported to be living in Buenos Aires.

2. The following statements concerning Dr. DURCANSKY come from "Who's Who in Occupied and Satellite Europe, Excluding France", published in May 1944:

Slovak politician. Born circa 1906. Son of Senator Juraj DURCANSKY, representative of the Slovak People's (HLINKA) Party in the Czechoslovak Senate. As a student was a fervent partisan of Slovak-Hungarian Union. Started his career as unknown lawyer. Studied in Paris and Berlin, where he made intimate contacts with Hitler Youth leaders. On his return to Czechoslovakia, he founded the monthly "Nastup" with Nazi aid. First came into prominence as Minister of Justice in the Slovak autonomous government founded October 1938 (after Munich). Later was obliged by Czechoslovak opposition to flee to Vienna, where he violently attacked the Czechoslovak Republic. Appointed Minister of Foreign Affairs and became Minister of Interior in the first independent Slovak Government, 14 March 1939. Suddenly dismissed in September 1941; reported to be on demand of the Germans who were playing off the groups of TUKA (Dr. Vojtech — advocate of Czechoslovak-Hungarian union) and MACH (Sano — advocate of Slovak-Croat-Rumanian affiliation) against that of DURCANSKY. Article in "Slovak", March 1943, accused the Slovaks of inciting anti-Czech feeling.

3. According to a report dated 9 October 1946, the source of which was Dr. Vojtech KRAJCOVIC, now chairman of the National Committee for Liberation of Slovakia, an emigre political group in the United States (note: presumably an affiliate of DURCANSKY's own organization) Dr. DURCANSKY was formerly a professor of international law at the University of Bratislava and was Slovak Foreign Minister in 1939, in which capacity he signed a treaty of friendship with Hitler under duress.

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According to KRAJCOVIC, he was dismissed by the pro-Hitler government in Slovakia because of his desire to establish contacts with England and France. According to a report dated October 1944 he was formerly in the HLINA Guard.

4. Information was received in January 1946 that Dr. DURCANSKY had arrived in Rome with his wife and two children and that he had gone into hiding. In April 1947 the Czechoslovak Government under President BENES requested the extradition of Dr. DURCANSKY from Italy for trial in Czechoslovakia as a war criminal. The request was refused since the Italo-Czech treaty of 1921 was not applicable to political criminals. In August 1947 (note: pre-Communist coup) Major Josef HUPRICH, then First Secretary at the Czechoslovak Legation in Rome and a representative of the Ministry of Interior, was assigned the mission of locating Dr. DURCANSKY and kidnapping him for the Czechoslovak Government. This attempt was unsuccessful, however.

5. While in Rome Dr. DURCANSKY was reported to be cooperating with Hungarians in the framework of the INTERMARIUM Movement, a European federalist organization composed of various dissident elements -- Poles, Hungarians, Slovenes, Slovaks, etc., which is rightist and nationalistic in character.

6. According to a report dated 25 March 1947, DURCANSKY left Rome in December 1946 and was in hiding near Rome in Frascati where he is alleged to have stayed at the Jesuit Monastery and in nearby Grottaferrata where he lived at the College for Oriental Priests. In March 1946 he returned to Rome and was reported to be staying in the Vatican as a guest of a postal employee of the Vatican mail service. A report dated June 1947 from a source whose reliability is unknown stated that he was making regular radio broadcasts to Slovakia from either Austria or Italy. A Prague newspaper item originating in Vienna on 18 June 1947 stated that DURCANSKY's news broadcasts had gone off the air now that he was living in Salzburg as a privileged DP and that the broadcasts originated somewhere in Southern Austria.

7. After the abortive mission to kidnap him mentioned in paragraph 4 above, he is alleged to have escaped to Spain. The American Embassy in Prague stated in a cable dated 8 November 1947 that a Communist official in the Czechoslovak Ministry of Foreign Affairs had informed the Embassy that DURCANSKY had left Italy for Argentina in October 1947. A State Department cable dated 22 December 1947 was dispatched to all stations to submit to the Department any application for visa facilities which might be made by DURCANSKY, as well as whether any visa facilities had already been issued to him by a Consulate. A request for a visa was submitted to the American Consulate General in Naples on 13 January by DURCANSKY.

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8. A report dated 28 December 1948 stated that DUNCANSKY had arrived in Argentina (date not given) under the name Mander VIJCEK. It was further reported that he had, under this name, invested in ALCALOIDES ARGENTINOS, S. A., a factory in Buenos Aires for the production of morphine according to a process discovered by one Nicolas BENTNER.

9. A FBIE report dated 24 March 1948 stated that the Czechoslovak Government had that day filed a formal petition via its diplomatic office for the extradition from Argentina of DUNCANSKY. The Argentine Government refused the Czechoslovak Government's request to extradite him. In April 1948 it was reported that he was interested in coming to the United States and that he was then in the process of attempting to find some person who would recommend him for a U.S. visa or who would make arrangements for him at the American Consulate in Buenos Aires. It may have been for this reason that sometime later, August 1949, he offered to turn over information to the U.S. Embassy in Buenos Aires. He at this time, claimed that he wished to turn over information since his organization, Committee of Central and Eastern Europe, had been suspended by the Argentine police.

10. Concerning the Committee of Central and Eastern Europe, a report dated 11 July 1949 states that one Father Virgilio FILIPPO, an Argentine priest and National Deputy, together with Dr. Branko BENZON, former Ustasha Minister and DUNCANSKY, initiated the formation of this committee about a year previously with the support and backing of the Ustashi, Alexander TSAREV's Bulgarian followers, Miroslaw ABCHIZENSKI, Milan STOJADINOVICH, Leon DEBERKLE, followers of Petain and Italian Fascist groups. Its nature is anti-imperialist, anti-Communist, and anti-colonial.

11. A report dated 2 December 1948 stated that DUNCANSKY had been effective in penetrating Slovak Communist groups in Buenos Aires and that he had allegedly reported the names of such individuals to the Argentine police. In September 1948 there was an unconfirmed report that the Slovak Communists have helped the Slovak separatists in dispatching clandestinely a courier from Czechoslovakia with the mission of contacting DUNCANSKY, now living in Buenos Aires and recognized head of the Slovak separatists. According to this report the courier was to represent both the separatists and the Communists in mapping a common plan of action.

12. A report was received in July 1949 from a fairly reliable source that Fascist inmates of the Leopoldov State Prison in Slovakia were pinning their hopes for eventual release on the influence of DUNCANSKY.

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13. In June 1948 it was reported that a meeting of delegates from various refugee camps in Germany of DURCANSKY followers was held in Frankfurt on 12 June 1948. An illegal emigration route to South America, via France and Spain, is said to have been an item of discussion. The group's Munich address was given as Lanion Str. 11, 5th Floor, telephone 40340.

14. A report from a source of unknown reliability dated 14 July 1949 stated that DURCANSKY had lost considerable prestige, especially among the more recent Slovak arrivals in Argentina, to Dr. Karel SIDOR, the subject of recent controversial discussion within Czech and Slovak groups in the United States. One of the reasons for this loss of prestige is said to be DURCANSKY's outward attachment toward Nazi elements and Peron followers. He is further stated by the source of this report to be violently anti-Semitic and anti-U.S.

15. According to July 1950 issues of the "New Yorksky Dennik", Reverend Rudolf WILONG is DURCANSKY's representative in the United States. The 20 July 1950 issue reports that simultaneous lecture tours by WILONG and Dr. SIDOR has led to open bickering on pages of the Slovak separatist press, but that the fight has been somewhat dampened by Walter Winchell's campaign against both separatist leaders.

16. A source of unknown reliability has stated that it is his opinion that the retention of General Mikulas FERJENCIK on Ellis Island for three months in 1949 on charges of being a Communist might be the work of the DURCANSKY separatist group. It will be recalled that General FERJENCIK was cleared of these charges and admitted to the United States on 4 November 1949, following an investigation by the Immigration and Naturalization Service.

17. It is recommended that the Departments of State and Army, as well as the Federal Bureau of Investigation, be queried concerning Dr. DURCANSKY.

FOR THE DIRECTOR OF CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE

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Assistant Director

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